



# JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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## 18th Century Party at M.L.A.

Because of many difficulties which need not be enumerated, we have decided not to attempt any luncheon for 18th century enthusiasts as part of the annual M.L.A. meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, in December. Instead, following the suggestion of R. D. Havens, a late afternoon get-together has been planned.

As you may remember, the meetings of groups VII and VIII are scheduled to be held in the "Penn Roof" the afternoon of Wednesday Dec. 29th, from 2 to 5:15. The hotel has very kindly agreed to let us stay in part of this large room for the period from 5:15 to 6:30, and also is willing to set up small tables and furnish waiters so that drinks can be purchased on the spot. All in all, this appears to be an ideal arrangement. Members of the two groups can move about seeing old friends and acquaintances, with opportunity for liquid refreshment, in a room large enough to accommodate all who show up.

One thing the hotel management asks, and that is some general estimate on our part of the number who may attend. So we ask each one of you who will be on hand to drop us a penny postcard with your name on it, and also the names of any others, not *JNL* subscribers, who might want to come. In this way we can begin to have some idea of the possible number for which to prepare. Plan to meet your friends in the "Penn Roof" on the afternoon of Dec. 29th.

## Programs of Meetings

For Group VII Cyrus Day, the Chairman, has arranged the following program: A. O. Aldridge (Maryland), "Shaftesbury, Hobbes and State Religion"; J. H. Wagenblass (Rochester), "Swift on a Text of Lucretius"; Ernest C. Mossner (Texas), "Hume and the Ancient-Modern Controversy: a Study in Creative Skepticism."

Mary Katharine Woodworth, the Chairman of Group VIII, is planning an entire program on the general topic "Dr. Johnson and the Seventeenth Century Poets." There will be two main papers: the first by William R. Keast (Chicago) on "The Rationale of Johnson's Criticism of the Metaphysical Poets"; the second by Allen Tate on "Johnson on Figures of Space and Time." These papers will then be briefly discussed by Basil Willey (Cambridge Univ., Visiting Professor at Columbia), and W. K. Wimsatt, Jr. (Yale), after which the meeting will be thrown open for general comment. We are certain you will all agree that we are in for an interesting and worthwhile afternoon.

## M.L.A. Special Conferences

This year, in addition to the usual Section and Group meetings at the M.L.A., a number of special conferences are being planned, at which no papers are to be read. The purpose of these gatherings, limited in size to at most 35 people, is to provide an opportunity for active discussion by a small group of scholars with similar interests. Attendance will be by invitation or by personal application, well in advance, to the announced leader of the group. For a full list of the conferences having to do with 18th century problems see the forthcoming general program of the meetings. Two leaders have, however, asked that we list the topics of their conferences in this issue of the *JNL*.

In conference room 8 at 11 o'clock on Wed., Dec. 29th, will be held a discussion of periodicals under the leadership of R. P. Bond (N.C.) and Hill Shine (MacMurray). The exact topic will be "Research Problems and Materials in American and British Periodicals." Special emphasis will be placed on the implementation of research facilities through cooperative projects, catalogues of holdings, microphotography, and the development of the new *Periodical Post Boy*, the second issue of which has just appeared. If you wish to attend this conference send a card to R. P. Bond, P. O. Box 147, Chapel Hill, N. C.



Under the leadership of Henry Pettit (Colo.) there will be a conference on problems connected with the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* in Conference Room 9, Wed. Dec. 29th at 2 P.M. It is not necessary to be a member of the M.H.R.A. to attend the meeting. Merely write to Pettit at once to reserve a place. The purpose of the discussion at this time is to arrange for an American committee to aid in the compilation of the annual bibliography.

### Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum at Columbia

Eighteenth century students of the drama visiting New York will want to drop in on the augmented Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum, now located in spacious new quarters in Room 412 Low Library, Columbia Univ. The Museum is open to visitors afternoons on Mondays through Fridays each week during the University sessions. The exhibit contains eight models of the French classical theatre and an especially interesting model of Drury Lane at the time of Garrick. Its prints are of great value, some 18th century pictures being always on exhibition, and several hundred more available for private inspection at all times. Notable are pictures of theatres, costumes, manners, festivals, puppet shows, dances, and varied entertainments, from the time of Hogarth to that of Rowlandson. Political cartoons with theatrical flavor are conspicuous. The new director of the museum, Henry W. Wells, will be glad to answer any queries about the collection.

### The New Boswell Papers

On Nov. 5th, at the Grolier Club in New York City, Col. Ralph Isham held a press conference, at which time he showed publicly for the first time many of his new acquisitions. The result was a burst of journalistic excitement about Boswell and his manuscripts. On Monday, Nov. 8, all the New York papers carried full accounts; while an Associated Press release carried the news all over the world. We have ourselves received clippings of this dispatch from correspondents in Washington, Louisville, and Little Rock, Arkansas, to name only a few.

The best and fullest account appeared in the *New York Times*. With a picture of Col. Isham on the front page, a special editorial, a full page inside describing the papers, this was publicity which must have made Boswell, wherever he is, wriggle with delight. In-

cluded were two long articles — by Austin Stevens of the *Times* staff, and by Fritz Liebert (Yale) — packed with information for all Johnsonians. Indeed, every Johnson enthusiast ought to make every effort to get hold of a copy of this issue of the *New York Times* (Nov. 8, 1948), as a document of great importance.

As indicated in our last number, one of the most exciting items in the Fettercairn Papers, now finally in Isham's possession, is Boswell's manuscript journal of 1762-63. Included in the *Times* report, and reprinted here with the kind permission of Col. Isham, is a rendering of Boswell's first reactions to the celebrated meeting with Johnson. Of Johnson's physical appearance Boswell wrote in his journal:

"Mr. Johnson is a man of most dreadful appearance. He is a very big man, is troubled with sore eyes, the palsy, and the King's evil. He is very slovenly in his dress and speaks with a most uncouth voice. Yet his great knowledge, and strength of expression command vast respect and render him very excellent company. He has great humor and is a worthy man. But his dogmatical roughness of manner is disagreeable."

Your editor cannot refrain from commenting on the resemblance of this first reaction of Boswell to that of Dr. Thomas Campbell, some twelve years later. You may remember that Campbell, on meeting Johnson for the first time, was overwhelmed by his physical eccentricities; Boswell, too, appears to have been somewhat disturbed by his rough, uncouth manner. Yet it is to the glory of both men that they soon fell under the spell of Johnson's wit and great spirit, so that they tended to forget these surface peculiarities.

What is perhaps the most exciting single revelation in Isham's recent acquisitions from Malahide Castle is a thick folder containing some 1300 pages of the original manuscript of the *Life of Johnson*. Heavily overscored and interlined, the manuscript gives us priceless information concerning the manner in which Boswell put together his masterpiece. Furthermore, it brings to light numerous passages about Johnson which were omitted in the published version. A typical page of this manuscript is reproduced in the *Times* account in facsimile. Just before Johnson's well-known remarks about Gray's Odes (*Life*, IV, 13) there was included in the original version of the biography some comments on Westminster School. Johnson remarked:

"When I was at Oxford I allways felt an impulse to insult the Westminster men who were come there, they appeared to arrogate



so much to themselves upon their superficial talent of a readiness in making Latin verses; for I have observed Sir that many of them never got farther, and for what I myself have seen of them the well-known saying concerning them seemed pretty well to hold 'golden freshmen, silver bachelors and leaden masters'; but catching himself with some eagerness said — abating that I never saw any golden freshmen."

Crossed out in the manuscript, this is merely one of many such omissions, which Boswell left out of the printed version. The happy survival of the manuscript now brings to light the fascinating growth of an acknowledged literary classic.

### A Johnson Quiz

In our last number we promised to pass on a very difficult quiz which Fritz Liebert of Yale devised for the celebration of Johnson's birthday last September. Here it is. To be sure, the Doctor once remarked that "Questioning is not the mode of conversation among gentlemen," but Liebert suggests that for the moment we abandon our manners and "pose some ungentlemanly questions to try the wits of the best Johnsonians." He confesses also that there are some catch questions, by design, but insists that the faithful ought to be able to answer most of them.

There are ten questions, each one counting ten points. Consequently the total possible score would be a hundred. But just try to get that much! Check your answers with the correct ones given at the end of this issue.

1. All Johnsonians know the name of the Doctor's faithful servant, Francis Barber. Can you name another of his servants? Score 10 points for the correct answer.
2. Each of these women played a role in Johnson's life. Identify each very briefly, scoring 2 points for each that is right: (a) Mrs. Careless, (b) Mrs. Emmet, (c) Miss Morris, (d) Mrs. Gardiner, (e) Miss Jane (or Jenny) Harry.
3. Give the names of 5 authors other than Bozzy and Piozzi each of whom published a biography of Johnson prior to 1800, scoring 2 points for each correct answer.
4. Johnson wrote the lives of all but one of the following persons; name the one whose life he did not write, scoring 10 points for the correct answer: Herman Boerhaave, Thomas Sprat, Stephen Duck, David Mallet, Lewis Morin, George Stepney, Edward Cave, Peter Burman, Francis Cheynel, William Somerville.

5. Complete the following quotations, scoring 2 points for each with all words correct, 1 point if you guess only one word:

- (a) "It has not \_\_\_\_\_ enough to keep it \_\_\_\_\_."
- (b) "He has nothing of the \_\_\_\_\_ but his \_\_\_\_\_."
- (c) "What he does \_\_\_\_\_, he soon \_\_\_\_\_ to do."
- (d) "Who drives \_\_\_\_\_ should himself be \_\_\_\_\_."
- (e) "If a \_\_\_\_\_ is seen, a \_\_\_\_\_ will be presumed."

6. Give the actual names of the persons employing the following pseudonyms: (a) Probus Britannicus, (b) Sylvanus Urban, (c) An Impartial Hand, (d) A Genius, (e) T. Score 2 points for each.

7. Only one of the following was a relative of Johnson; score 10 points for the right answer: Eleanor Jervis, Lord Chesterfield, Catherine Chambers, Charles Ford, Sir John Floyer.

8. The following statements about *Rasselas* may be true or false; circle "T" or "F" after each, and score 2 points for each right answer:

- (a) Johnson had not looked at *Rasselas* since its publication until 1781.
- (b) The name *Rasselas* is not on the title-page of any edition published in Johnson's lifetime.
- (c) Johnson's original title for *Rasselas* was "The Choice of Life."
- (d) There have been nearly 300 editions of *Rasselas*.
- (e) Reynolds was so delighted with *Rasselas* that he read it straight through, leaning against a mantle so that his arm went to sleep.

9. Johnson wrote at least 6 theatrical prologues: name 5, scoring 2 points for each.

10. Supply the name of the speaker in the following quotation, and score 10 points for the right answer: "Sir," said \_\_\_\_\_, "you should have given us your Travels. I am sure I am right, and there's an end on't."

### A Query

David Wooley (Main Rd., Doncaster, Victoria, Australia) writes: "Has anyone looked into the variants in the text of Swift's *Apollo's Edict* printed in Mary Barber's *Poems on Several Occasions*, 1734? The variants give corroborative evidence for 1721 as the year of writing. Further, there are references to two persons which suggest that it was Swift who revised the poem for its reprinting in 1734. There are verbal differences in over a dozen



lines, omissions, and three additional couplets, which point to polishing for the occasion. Why did not Faulkner reprint it in 1735 along with *Apollo to Dean Swift* from the same cycle? Was it a matter of copyright or courtesy, or was the poem not by Swift after all? Swift enthusiasts might like to toy with this detail."

### News From England

E. S. de Beer writes: "We had recently three lectures by Dr. Siren on Chinese influences on European gardens in the eighteenth century. He dealt with Stourhead and another English park, two French parks, and one Swedish — parks rather than gardens. He was rather tentative, and avoided any general statements. My impression was that the garden architects had no satisfactory forms through which to express themselves, and were trying everything in turn or simultaneously — Chinese, Gothic, Roman, I think even Egyptian. The subject ought not I think to be isolated; it is too closely linked with something larger."

We wish to thank Phyllis Rowell for sending on some excellent photographs of the restored and redecorated Johnson House in Gough Square. Happily for all of us, and largely thanks to the late Lord Harmsworth, Mrs. Rowell, and The Pilgrim Trust, the House looks just as it did before the blitz.

We wish to express appreciation also to Edmund Nicholls of 4 Crane Court, London, for sending us a copy of his *The Family Book*, useful for keeping family records in the old way.

The address of Arthur W. Secord (Illinois), who is spending the year in England, is 37 Gordon Place, Kensington, London W.8. We will expect great things of his year of research.

### Miscellaneous News Items

At the meeting of the South-Central Modern Language Ass'n at the Univ. of Oklahoma in October, two papers were read of interest to all our readers: Agnes Sibley's (Lindenwood) "Alexander Pope in America: His Early Reputation as a Moralist" (Her book on this subject is announced by the Columbia Press for publication in the spring); and Edward H. Weatherly's (Missouri) "Charles Churchill and *Ayliffe's Ghost*."

At Smith College on the 19th and 20th of November there was held a symposium and exhibition in commemoration of the discovery of Pompeii in 1748. In connection with the festivities there was an exhibition of Pompeiana in the Tryon Gallery, a concert of

18th century music at the President's house, and numerous talks by eminent scholars. The one we would have most liked to have heard was by Meyric Rogers: "The Influence of Pompeii on Neo-classic Decorative Design."

H. W. Starr (Temple) is completing his supplement to Northrup's bibliography of Thomas Gray, intending to bring the work up through 1947. Any late additions or suggestions will be welcome.

We have often thought of instituting a special column for subscribers' complaints and bravos. But fortunately so far the howls have been few and the compliments such that modesty forbade passing them on. On the other hand, when one correspondent calls the last number "juicy," and another comments of the *JWL*, "I class it with the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *New Yorker*," we can't keep silent. "Juicy"! Like the *New Yorker*! Well, we have arrived!

### The Age of Enlightenment

We are very pleased to receive a copy of the *Proceedings of the Humanities Institute*, sponsored jointly by the Univ. of Toledo and the Toledo Museum of Art in March 1948. Included are two lectures of particular interest to us. Herbert Schneider (Columbia) makes a plea for a new Enlightenment while he surveys "the four chief articles of the rationalist faith, which have come down to us no longer as objects of faith but as commonplaces of common sense." Chauncey B. Tinker (Yale) discusses various characteristics typical of an age of enlightenment in the literature, the theatre, painting, etc. of 18th century England. Some of his remarks on Boswell we cannot omit. "No grace or distinction that had hitherto appeared in the art of biography was wanting from his pages save discretion, that lifeless caution which turns everything drab. In contrast to that timidity, Boswell indulged his love of intimacy and the tone of utter frankness — qualities which delight and hold us at the very moment when we gasp with amazement at the facts which he dares to throw upon his page "

### Some Recent Articles

Growing interest in scientific ideas is shown in two articles: F. E. L. Priestley, "Newton and the Romantic Concept of Nature," in the *Univ. of Toronto Quart.* for July; and in Monroe K. Spears, "Matthew Prior's Attitude toward Natural Science" in *PMLA* for June. Concerned with the history of ideas are Ernest Tuveson,



"The Origins of the 'Moral Sense'" in *Hunt. Library Quart.* for May; Edward Hooker, "Humour in the Age of Pope" in the same journal for August (an admirable study of the shift from humor as a dominant passion or fantastical oddity to a gentler and kindlier sentiment such as we find in *Tom Jones* and *Tristram Shandy*); A. R. Humphreys, "'The Friend of Mankind' (1700-80) — an Aspect of Eighteenth-Century Sensibility" in *RES* for July; Monroe K. Spears, "Some Ethical Aspects of Matthew Prior's Poetry" in *SP* for Oct.

Of interest to students of the stage are: J. Voisine, "Corneille et Racine en Angleterre au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle" in *Revue de Littérature Comparée* for April-June; G. W. Stone, Jr., "The God of His Idolatry: Garrick's Theory of Acting and Dramatic Composition with Especial Reference to Shakespeare" in the *Joseph Quincy Adams Memorial Studies* recently published by the Folger Library: J. Harrington Smith, "Shadwell, The Ladies, and the Change in Comedy," in *MP* for August; Dougald MacMillan, "David Garrick, Manager: Notes on the Theatre as a Cultural Institution in England in the Eighteenth Century" in *SP* for Oct.

Concerned with the poets are: Phyllis Freeman, "William Walsh and Dryden: Recently Recovered Letters" in *RES* for July; Lillian D. Bloom, "Pope as Textual Critic" in *JEGP* for April; Edward A. Parker and Ralph M. Williams, "John Dyer, the Poet, as Farmer" in *Agricultural History* for July; Henry Pettit, "A Check-List of Young's Night-Thoughts in America" in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, for the Second Quarter; Robert D. Horn, "Addison's Campaign and Macaulay," *PMLA*, for Sept.; Henry Wasser, "Notes on the Visions of the Daughters of Albion by William Blake," *MLQ* for Sept.

W. T. Bandy, "Rousseau's Flight from England" in *Romantic Review* for April and Ernest Mossner, "Beattie's 'The Castle of Scepticism': an Unpublished Allegory against Hume, Voltaire, and Hobbes" in *Univ. of Texas Studies in English* for June 1948 give added information about Hume and French writers.

Students of the novel will be interested in J. M. Yoklavich, "Notes on the Early Editions of *Tristram Shandy*" in *PMLA* for June; and in A. E. Carter, "The Greatest English Novelist (On the Occasion of the Bicentenary of *Clarissa*, 1748)" in the *Univ. of Toronto Quart.* for July. (How many of you will agree with Carter in his opening statement: "Richardson is the greatest English novelist...."?) F. Cordasco has had a series of short notes concerned with Smollett (printing some hitherto unpublished letters,

etc.) in *N & Q* for 10 July, 21 Aug., 4 Sept., and 2 Oct., etc.

Others to be listed: G. R. de Beer, "Francis Godolphin in Switzerland, 1737" in *N & Q* for 10 July; Nicholas Joost, Jr., "Burnet's 'Grumbler' and Ambrose Philips" in *N & Q* for 7 Aug.; Rae Blanchard, "Was Sir Richard Steele a Freemason?" in *PMLA* for Sept.; Cecil Price, "Five Unpublished Letters by Chesterfield" (to the Earl of Bute) in *Life and Letters* for Oct.

## New Books

The most important new volume to be mentioned in this number is Arthur O. Lovejoy's *Essays in the History of Ideas*, published by the Johns Hopkins Press. Scholars everywhere will welcome this reprinting of most of Lovejoy's famous essays — his penetrating analyses of the diverse meanings given to "Nature" and "Romanticism" in the 18th century, his discussion of the parallelism of deism and classicism, his discussions of the Gothic revival and of the influences of Chinese art. Now in one volume we have easily available his epoch-making articles which have changed so many of our ideas.

Other new books which might be mentioned are: John Harrington Smith's *The Gay Couple in Restoration Comedy*; J. G. Davies' *The Theology of William Blake*; and the *Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*, edited by George W. Corner.

## English Institute Essays, 1947

The new English Institute volume of essays, just published, contains little specifically for 18th century enthusiasts. Indeed, the blast by William Carlos Williams, in which he urges American poets to burst out of the restricting ancient rules of English prosody, is violently opposed to neo-classical insistence on metrical form. Just the same, those of us who delight in the Augustan restraints might well see what are the most advanced arguments on the other side. Other papers will interest many of our readers: on myth and literature by Richard Chase (Conn. College) and Donald Stauffer (Princeton); on Elizabethan problems by M. A. Shaaber (Penn.), Matthew W. Black (Penn.), Hereward T. Price (Mich.), and Giles E. Dawson (Folger Library).



## Forthcoming Books

Lewis M. Knapp (Colo. College) writes that his *Tobias Smollett, Doctor of Men and Manners*, which the Princeton Press had promised for November, should certainly appear before the end of the year. Other university press books which should be out very soon are: Wallace C. Brown's *The Triumph of Form: the Later Masters of the Heroic Couplet* (Univ. of N. C. Press); and Robert E. Moore's *Hogarth's Literary Relationships*, (Univ. of Minn. Press). Two other books from the same press which are scheduled for next spring are: *The Adventures of Lindamira, a Lady of Quality*, edited by Benjamin Boyce; and *Five Keys to Gulliver* by Kenneth Seeley.

In Blackwell's latest listing of books to be published shortly in England there are a number which will interest 18th century enthusiasts: *Songs of the Restoration Theatre*, edited by P. J. Stead; Norman Ault's *New Light on Pope*; *The Collected Poems of Christopher Smart*, edited by Norman Callan; Willard Connely's *Young George Farquhar*; A. Powell's *John Aubrey and His Friends*; G. Woodcock's *The Incomparable Aphra: a Study of Mrs. Aphra Behn*; and Evelyn Hardy's *The Conjured Spirit -- Swift* (another study of Swift's relations with Stella and Vanessa).

## An Early Reference to The Campbell Diary

From Dick Altick (Ohio State) comes the following:

"In reading this afternoon in Charles Knight's *Passages of a Working Life* (London: Bradbury & Evans, 1865), I found (III, 163-6) a bit of information on the Campbell Diary which I don't believe you include in your book and which perhaps never came to your attention. Knight tells how, as a juror at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, he came across a small exhibit of Australian manufactures and there found a copy of the Campbell Diary, which he was told was as yet unpublished in New South Wales. Returning to England, Knight published an extended account of the diary in his *Town and Country Newspaper* for 21 July 1855. This was, as he points out, four years before the elaborate review-article appeared in the *Edinburgh*; but he says that 'no publisher or author took the least notice of my article.'"

Your editor confesses that Knight's interest in the diary of Dr. Thomas Campbell is completely new to him, and wishes it were possible to incorporate the information in the notes to his edition.

## Elizabeth Carter

We had intended before this to mention a letter from H. Clifford Smith in *Country Life* for April 25, 1947 (p. 773) describing a hitherto unknown portrait of Elizabeth Carter. The picture was bequeathed to the Gough Square Johnson House by Mrs. Pennington Bickford, Elizabeth Carter's great-great-niece, and widow of the rector of St. Clement Danes, who died shortly after the destruction of the church in the blitz. The portrait, which is unsigned, has been tentatively assigned to Wright of Derby. It may be the work of Angelica Kaufmann.

### Answers to the Johnson Quiz

1. Charles Bird, Johnson's servant at Edial; or Mrs. White, left £100 in Johnson's will as his female servant.

2. (a) Mrs. Careless: Edmund Hector's sister, a clergyman's widow, the first woman with whom Johnson was in love.

(b) Mrs. Emmet: actress, appeared at Lichfield as Flora in *Hob in the Well*, with whom Johnson was in love ca. 1736.

(c) Miss Morris: daughter of Valentine Morris, sister to Miss Morris the actress, received Johnson's blessing the day he died.

(d) Mrs. Gardiner: wife of Snow Hill tallow chandler, not in the learned way, but a worthy good woman, celebrated Johnson's birthday with him in 1781, was bequeathed a book in his will.

(e) Miss Harry: convert to Quakerism, called by Johnson an odious wench, subject of his dispute with Mrs. Knowles.

3. William Cook, William Shaw, Sir John Hawkins, Thomas Tyers, Robert Anderson, Arthur Murphy, Joseph Towers, James Harrison.

4. Stephen Duck.

5. (a) wit, sweet; (b) bear, skin; (c) best, ceases; (d) fat oxen, fat; (e) jack, spit.

6. (a) Johnson; (b) Edward Cave; (c) Johnson; (d) Boswell; (e) Johnson.

7. Lord Chesterfield.

8. (a) False, he revised the second edition; (b) False, it is on the title of the first American edition, 1768; (c) True, he proposed it in a letter to Strahan; (d) False, there have been over 500; (e) False, he read the *Life of Savage* thus.

9. Prologues to *Irene*; Milton's *Comus*; Garrick's *Lethe*; Goldsmith's *Good-Natured Man*; Kelly's *Word to the Wise*; and for the opening of the Drury-Lane Theater.

10. Boswell (imitating Johnson's style).